

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0099

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH), US, ZA

SUBJECT: MEETING OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA WITH PRESIDENT FORD

1. IN CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA THURSDAY, JAN 16, IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT OF CODEL DIGGS, HE GAVE ME PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH CHIEFS OF STATE AT KINGSTON, JAMAICA, AND SUGGESTED TWO ALTERNATIVE DATES -- APRIL 25 OR MAY 3 -- FOR CONSIDERATION BY WASHINGTON AS POSSIBILITIES FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

2. THESE DATES SUGGESTED IN TERMS OF CUTTING NASSAU OR KINGSTON VISITS SHORT BY ONE DAY IN FOLLOWING DRAFT SCHEDULE FOR KAUNDA'S CARIBBEAN TRIP. DEPART LUSAKA APRIL 20 AND OVERNIGHT DAKAR. ARRIVE HAVANA APRIL 21 FOR THREE-DAY VISIT. DEPART APRIL 24 FOR NASSAU. DEPART APRIL 26 FOR GEORGETOWN. DEPART APRIL 28 FOR KINGSTON. DEPART EVENING MAY 3 FOR MONROVIA FOR TWO-DAY VISIT. RETURN LUSAKA MAY 6.

3. I ASKED MWAANGA IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO CUT SHORT THE HAVANA TRIP TO OFFER A BROADER RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES. HE SAID CABANS HAD INITIALLY PROPOSED AN ELEVEN-DAY VISIT WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN CUT TO THREE DAYS. FURTHER, ZAMBIA ALWAYS HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND AN INVITATION FROM CASTRO WAS OUTSTANDING SINCE 1967. (COMMENT: WE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESUME CUBA VISIT MAY BE AN OUTGROWTH OF KAUNDA'S

TRIP TO USSR LATE NOVEMBER 1974.)

4. WOULD HOPE THAT FAVORABLE WHITE HOUSE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO MEETING OF PRESIDENTS ALREADY TAKEN AND THAT ONE OF THESE DATES COULD BE ACCEPTABLE OR, IF NOT, THAT ALTERNATIVE CAN BE PROPOSED WITHIN TIMEFRAME OF KAUNDA'S DRAFT SCHEDULE.

5. WOULD HOPE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE WOULD AGREE THAT MEETING OF PRESIDENTS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO MAKE UP FOR ABORTED OCT 1969 KAUNDA-NIXON MEETING, WHICH IS A HURT STILL FELT BY THE ZAMBIANS, BUT BECAUSE MEETING WOULD MOST COGENTLY AFFIRM CONTINUING USG INTEREST IN FAST-MOVING POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND PROGRESS TOWARD SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OBVIOUSLY, MEETING WOULD HAVE ADDED VALUE AS TANGIBLE RECOGNITION OF COURAGEOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION WHICH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AS A LEADING MODERATE AFRICAN LEADER, HAS MADE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES AND MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

6. MWAANGA CONFIRMED THAT, IN HIS NEW YEAR'S RADIO/TV MESSAGE FROM CHINSALI COUNTRY HOME, PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD DESCRIBED PRESIDENT FORD AS "AN HONEST MAN" FOR HAVING RECOGNIZED AND APPLAUDED CHINA'S WORK ETHIC AND ACHIEVEMENTS. KAUNDA ALSO SAID IN THAT MESSAGE HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT FORD ZAMBIAN PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY AND HUMANISM AND THEIR RELATION TO CAPITALISM.

7. FONMIN MWAANGA CONFIRMED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT PRESIDENT KAUNDA WOULD BE MAKING STATE VISIT JAN 21 - 29 TO INDIA, SRI LANKA AND MAURITIUS WHICH IS LARGELY PROTOCOLARY TO RECIPROCATATE FOR STATE VISIT IN 1974 OR PRESIDENT V.V. GIRI, ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ISSUES WILL ARISE. IN NEW DELHI THE NEHRU AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING TO BE CONFERRED UPON KAUNDA.

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8. CONFIRMED VISIT TO ZAMBIA FEB 7 - 11 OF PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY AND VISIT MARCH 3 - 6 TO ZAMBIA OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS AND QUEEN FABIOLA.
WILKOWSKI

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